



Newsletter

January 1993

HINKLEY C - NO START BEFORE END OF CENTURY?

A third power station at Sizewell in Suffolk is firming up as the favoured option for Nuclear Electric if it goes ahead with more nuclear construction after the expected 1994 government review. This would push the Hinkley C plan further into the future.

According to a report in the *West Somerset Free Press*, the Sizewell preference means that Hinkley C could not go ahead until after 2001. By that time, the existing planning permission would have run out.

However, no planning application has yet been made for a Sizewell C station, and there is so much fluidity about the whole energy debate at present that predictions are dangerous.

Meanwhile, we must support the battle against any further development at Sizewell. For further information, contact the Shut Down Sizewell Campaign, Tudor House, St. James St, Dunwich, Saxmundham, Suffolk (072 873300)

or the East Anglian Alliance Against Nuclear Power, 12 Groveside, Yoxford, Saxmundham, Suffolk (0728 778105).

GOVERNMENT'S ENERGY REVIEW STOKES UP NUCLEAR DEBATE

The government's review of energy policy, set up in the wake of the pit closures debacle, and a parallel inquiry by a House of Commons select committee, have both generated the fullest debate for many years about the country's energy options.

As far as the nuclear industry is concerned, the main issues raised so far have been:

1. Nuclear Subsidy

Nuclear Electric receives a subsidy of £1.2 million from the government this year through a levy of 11% of every consumer's electricity bill. Questions have been raised as to how fair this is when the rest of the energy industry, including the coal mines, have to sink or swim on their own. How many pits could be kept open, for instance, if the subsidy was switched to coal?



All SHE members and supporters are very welcome at the

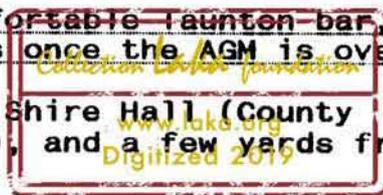
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

7.30 PM WED FEB 24

"PEN & QUILL", SHUTTERN*, TAUNTON

This is a social evening in a comfortable Taunton bar, a chance to meet other SHE members once the AGM is over.

* The Pen & Quill is opposite the Shire Hall (County Court building, parking available), and a few yards from Taunton police station.



During this debate it was revealed that not all the subsidy anyway goes towards dealing with nuclear waste and decommissioning of old stations - its supposed purpose. Some of it has in fact gone towards the construction of Sizewell B.

2. Magnox Closure

One way to allow a larger market for coal, and keep more pits open, would be to close down some of the older Magnox nuclear stations like Hinkley A. Nuclear Electric argues that this wouldn't save any money because there would immediately be a large bill for decommissioning - and they're also producing cheap power now they've paid for their building costs.

Against this it's argued that the cost of closure would still be a better bet than continuing to build up more waste, and risking a serious accident. Costs could also be cut if Magnox spent fuel was safely stored rather than reprocessed through Sellafield.

*Since last November, Greenpeace has been publishing a weekly newsheet, "PowerHouse", aimed at influencing politicians and others involved in the energy review.

* An indication of the way the wind has been blowing can be seen from the two extracts below from the *Daily Telegraph*, not a fiercely anti-nuclear newspaper.

The nuclear industry has responded to all this with its own propaganda barrage, including a special issue of *Nuclear Forum* magazine. The main thrust of this has been that coal and nuclear are natural partners, that nuclear helps combat the greenhouse effect and produces no acid rain, that the industry should be retained as a strategic choice, and that future stations will be the cheapest option. The industry therefore recommends limiting coal imports, holding back on new gas power stations, and even reducing the cross-Channel link to France before reducing nuclear output.

These arguments all neatly sidestep the fundamental safety arguments against nuclear power, and the fact that its promise of cheap power has never yet come true in Britain.

WHAT THE PAPERS SAID

"Given to British Coal, instead of Nuclear Electric, this sum (the £1.2 million fossil fuel levy) would make every pit in the land profitable. Without the levy, it is the geriatric nuclear power stations that would be facing shutdown, not two-thirds of the country's coal mines." (Neil Collins, *Daily Telegraph* City Editor)

"Nuclear power, which attracted such fanatical adherents in the 1970s and early 1980s, has been shown to offer no kind of viable alternative." (*Daily Telegraph* leader)

NUCLEAR ELECTRIC FIGHTS HINKLEY "A" CLOSURE

Nuclear Electric has been lobbying local councils and politicians in Somerset in a fightback against the threatened closure of the 27-year-old Hinkley A Magnox station as part of a pit closures deal.

A letter to local councillors and others lists the claimed economic advantages of keeping Hinkley A running "to 37 years and beyond" and urges them to lobby MPs and the Department of Trade. Bridgwater MP Tom King has since put his name behind the campaign.

The issue has been portrayed as a "fight for survival", with 600 jobs and a major slice of the local economy on the line. SHE responded to this by telling the media that the ageing station should be closed for safety reasons, never mind the economics, that there would be ongoing work for some time in fuel removal and decommissioning, and that the loss of jobs had to be seen in the context of the 31,000 mining jobs at risk.

SHE NEWS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of Stop Hinkley Expansion will be held on Wednesday February 24th at 7.30pm in the Pen and Quill bar, Shuttern, Taunton. This is opposite the Shire Hall (County Court building) and close to the main police station. Apart from the formalities of officers' reports and elections, this is an opportunity for members in the area to meet each other and catch up on the latest news. Hope to see you there!

NEW HOME FOR IDEAL ENERGY EXHIBITION

The Ideal Energy Exhibition, launched by SHE over three years ago, has found a new home at the Leicester Ecology Trust. The Trust runs an Eco House in Leicester, where students and others can learn about energy saving. It has an active educational programme in the city, which was the first in the country to be designated an "Environment City".

The travelling exhibition, which includes displays about the environmental benefits of saving energy, and is ideal for school parties, is still available for bookings outside Leicester. For details, please contact Claire Dorling (0454 418596).

LAND ROVER FOR SALE

"W" reg SWB diesel hard-top Series 3 Land Rover with bench seat at back and four new tyres. Contact Dickon Fell (0272 557059).

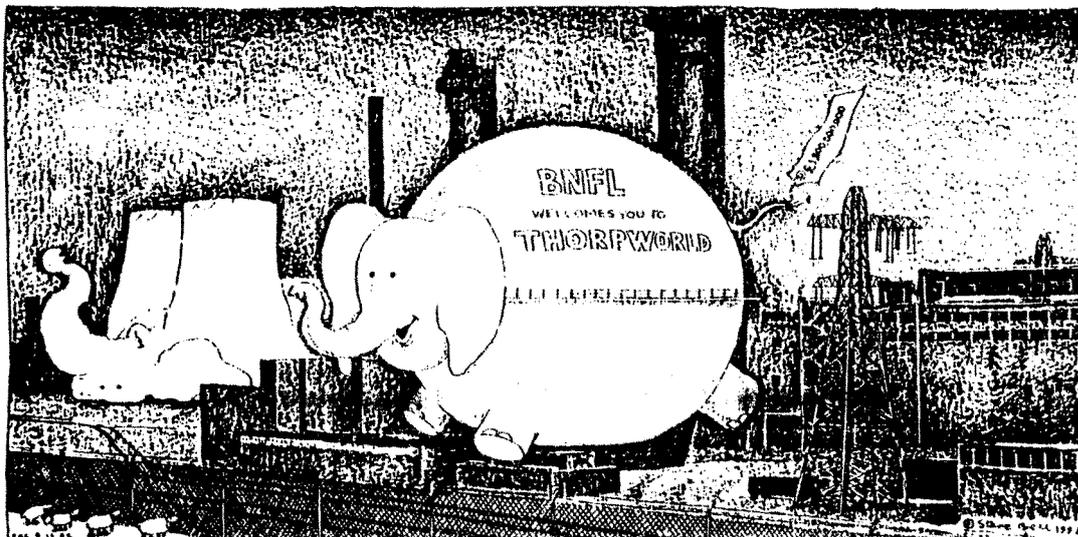
SHE SELF-HELP SCHEME

Could our skills help you - and help SHE? We can provide administration and computer skills (including setting up databases and selecting computer equipment) at *below the market rate*, if supporters are prepared to make a parallel contribution to SHE funds. To find out more, please contact Claire Dorling (0454 418596).

THORP FUTURE STILL IN DOUBT

There is still uncertainty as to whether the new THORP reprocessing plant at Sellafield will open, especially after the thousands of protest letters sent in by individuals and organisations, including SHE. Greenpeace and Friends of the Earth have both mounted campaigns against THORP, including detailed reports about its environmental and economic effects. The government is said to be considering whether it would make economic sense to keep it shut.

The Pollution Inspectorate has already been forced to extend the consultation period about the plant's radioactive discharges.



Courtesy of Steve Bell and The Guardian

SAFE ENERGY NEWS

MORE RENEWABLE ENERGY IN BRITAIN?

Twenty per cent of Britain's energy needs could be supplied by renewable sources - especially wind, water and waste - in 2025, according to an advisory group set up by the government.

The Renewable Energy Advisory Group report, published in December, was more cautious about the immediate prospects, looking forward to just 1,500 Megawatts of renewable power by the end of this century. It did, however, recommend stronger financial support for the developing industry, which has been waiting for the government to launch another round of bids under the "non-fossil fuel" support scheme.

A BLOW FOR CHERNOBYL

"An international consortium, including a British consultancy, is to build a forest of 5,000 windmills in Ukraine. They will supply power to offset the eventual shutdown of nuclear reactors at Chernobyl.

The windmills will produce 500 Megawatts of power - enough for half a million homes - which will make the installation one of the largest wind power facilities in the world.

The plan calls for work to begin next year. The Ukrainian legislature has ordered the permanent closure of the two remaining operable reactors at Chernobyl by the end of 1993.

The Ukraine windmill project comes as the former Soviet Union appears more and more receptive to generating electricity from wind. Scott Healy, of US Windpower, the company that will supply the windmills, said that severe pollution from fossil fuel power and public anxiety about Chernobyl and other nuclear power plants has created "a tremendous need (for wind-power projects) not only in

the Ukraine but in many of the other countries of the former Soviet Union."

[From *The Observer* 22.11.92]

ENERGY SAVING IN PITMINSTER

An energy saving campaign is being launched in the village of Pitminster, just outside Taunton, by the Green Deane 2000 environmental group.

So far, all residents in the village have been asked to complete a questionnaire about their home's energy use and efficiency. The next stage will be to draw up a plan for carrying out - and funding - improvements. Further information from Crispin Aubrey (0278 732921).

Lloyds Bank		1/1 1993
5-7	BRIDGWATER BRANCH 25 CORNHILL BRIDGWATER SOMERSET TA8 3AY	30-91-20
Pay	<i>Somerset County Council</i>	or order
One Million Pounds £1,000,000		
		 Nuclear Electric

NUCLEAR ELECTRIC HELPS BUILD BYPASS

Work is due to start this year on the Cannington bypass, the long-awaited route round the village, which is only a few miles from Hinkley Point.

Over a third of the £3 million cost is being paid by Nuclear Electric, which had wanted the road as part of an improved network to take construction traffic for Hinkley C. The sting in the tail is that if Hinkley C is not under way by 1997, Somerset County Council will have to pay the money back. Let's hope such considerations will not influence councillors to support the power station!

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